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Technical Meeting on the International Year and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

(Geneva, 20-22 July 1994)

Chairperson-Rapporteur: Mr. Jorge Rhenán Segura (Costa Rica)

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE TECHNICAL MEETING

1. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in June 1993 recommended that the General Assembly should proclaim an international decade of the world's indigenous people. General Assembly resolution 48/163 of 21 December 1993 proclaimed the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, commencing on 10 December 1994, the period from 1 January to 9 December 1994 to be set aside for planning for the Decade. Paragraph 18 of the resolution requests that the Technical Meeting to evaluate the International Year, to be held in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/128 of 17 December 1991, should also consider preparations for the Decade, giving full participation to indigenous people in elaborating a detailed plan of action. That paragraph also requests that the plan of action should include an evaluation mechanism and funding plan for the Decade and that the Meeting should report to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. The proposals and suggestions of the Chairperson-Rapporteur and the two Vice-Chairpersons of the Technical Meeting were submitted to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1994/8.

2. The Technical Meeting on the International Year and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People was held at Geneva from 20 to 22 July 1994. It was attended by representatives of Member States and observers, representatives of specialized agencies and regional commissions of the United Nations system, experts of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, representatives of indigenous organizations and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

3. A special contribution by the Government of Canada enabled the 43 indigenous people receiving assistance from the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations to extend their stay in Geneva and take part in the Meeting.

A. Participation

4. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented at the Meeting: Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden and Venezuela.

5. The Holy See was represented.

6. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, United Nations Department of Public Information, United Nations Development Support and Management Services, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, International Labour Organisation, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, United Nations Development Programme, Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

7. The Instituto Indigenista Interamericano was represented.

8. The following non-governmental organizations and indigenous peoples' organizations were represented at the Meeting: Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), Achiri-Qollasuyo (Bolivia), Agencia Internacional de Prensa India, Ainu Association of Hokkaido (Japan), Alianza Mundial de los Pueblos Indígenas Tribales de los Bosques Tropicales, All India Santal Welfare and Cultural Society, American Indian Law Alliance, Apache Survival Coalition, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, Asociación Colombiana (Geneva), Asociación Cultural Sejekto de Costa Rica, Asociación de Pueblos Indígenas de la República de Sakha, Asociación Indígena de la República Argentina, Asociación Napguana, Asociación "Retorno de la Sabiduría del Pueblo Maya Kaqchikel", Assembly of First Nations (Canada), Association de Soutien aux Nations Ameridiennes, Association nouvelle de la culture et des arts populaires (Morocco), Association pour la promotion des Batwa (Rwanda), Association of Shortz People (Russian Federation), Association of the People of North Kamchatka (Russian Federation), Association of Teleut People "Ene-Bayat" (Russian Federation), Australian Central Land Council, Autoridad Indígena de Colombia, Baha'i International Community, Bangladesh Hill Students Council, Bank Information Centre Indigenous Peoples Project, Bito Foundation, Bringers of Peace (New Zealand), Centre of the Traditional Culture of Itelmen People "Kamchatka Etnos", Centro Cultural Ayni, Centro de Documentación, Investigación e Información de los Pueblos Indígenas, Centro de Información por los Derechos Indios, Centro por la Vida y la Paz "Rigoberta Menchú Tum" (Guatemala), Cherokee Nation, Chin National Front, Chittagong Hill Tracts Women's Federation, Chukchi People - Council of the Traditional Elders, Chukotka Autonomous Region (Russian Federation), Comission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, Confederation of Treaty Six First Nations (Canada), Consejo de las Organizaciones Mayas de Guatemala, Consejo de Todas las Tierras (Chile), Consejo Nacional de la Cultura Náhuatl (Mexico), Consejo Nacional Indígena de Venezuela (CONIVE), Consultative Committee of Finno-Ugric People, CONTRALESA, COONAPIP (Panama), COOPERAGUA (Mexico), Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon, Cordillera Peoples' Alliance (Philippines), Escuela Maya de Derechos Humanos Ixim-che (Guatemala), Federación Indígena y Campesina de Imbabura (Ecuador), Fourth World Centre, Friends of Kashmir International, Friends of Peoples Close to Nature, Fundación Yanantin (Ecuador), Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec), Hadzabe Silwot, Haudenosaunee - Confederation of the Six Iroquois Nations (Canada, United States of America), Hawaii Kanaka Maoli Tribunal Komike, Hiti Tau (French Polynesia), Homeland Mission 1950 for South Moluccas, Human Rights Internet, Indian Confederation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (India), Ilkerin Loita Project (Kenya), Incomindios, Indian Council of South America, Indian Law Resource Center, Indigenous People of Fiji, Initiative for a Coalition of Indigenous and Adivasi Peoples (India), INSAF, International Federation Terre des Hommes, International Gay and Lesbian Association, International Human Rights Association for American Minorities, International Indian Treaty Council, International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, International Organization of Indigenous Resource Development, International Service for Human Rights, International Workgroup for Indigenous Affairs, Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Ixu Trust, Ixu en Khwe (South Africa), Jeuness nationale populaire (Morocco), Joint Council of Elders of the Chukchi People

(Russian Federation), Ka Lahui (Hawaii), Keepers of the Treasures, Keto People, Khavty Nation, Lauravetl'an Foundation/Chukchi People (Russian Federation), Loita Naimina Enkiyio Conservation Trust (Kenya), Lubicon Cree (Canada), Lutheran World Federation, Maa Development Association (Kenya), Maori Congress, Maori Legal Service (New Zealand), Minority Rights Group, Mosul Vilayet Council (Iraq), Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (Nigeria), Movimiento Acción y Resistencia, Movimiento de la Juventud Kuna (Panama), Muskogee Creek Indian Nation (Canada), Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights, National Aboriginal and Islanders Legal Service Secretariat (Australia), National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Thailand), Nenetz Nation (Russian Federation), Netherlands Centre for Indigenous People, New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (Australia), Ngaati Te Ata Nation (New Zealand), NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples Nitassinan, Norfolk Island People, Northern Land Council of Australia, Nuba Mountains Solidarity Abroad, Opetchesaht Nation, Organización Amaro Runa (Peru), Organización de Mujeres Aymaras del Kollasuyo, Organización Regional de la Mujer Indígena (Peru), Pacific Asian Council of Indigenous Peoples, Parliamento Indio de América, Pro-Hawaiian Sovereignty Working Group, Red de Apoyo a Grupos Autogestionarios, Sami Council, Shimin Gaikou Centre (Japan), Society for Endangered Peoples, South American Indian Information Centre, South East Treaty of Four Tribal Councils and Treaty of Four Chiefs (Canada), Stichting Papua Volken, Support for Indigenous Peoples (Belgium), Survival International, Teton Sioux Nations Treaty Council, Thailand Indigenous Women's Development Center, Tribal Act Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation, West Papua Peoples Front, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Women's Resource Institute and Plains Indians Cultural Survival School, World Chakma Organisation, World Council of Indigenous Peoples, Young Ambassadors Great Peace Pipe Ceremony.

B. Agenda

9. The Technical Meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Organization of work.

4. Evaluation of the International Year:

   (a) Activities of the Coordinator, including the Voluntary Fund for the International Year;

   (b) Activities of the United Nations system;

   (c) National activities;

   (d) Indigenous activities;

   (e) Non-governmental activities.

5. Objectives of the International Decade.

6. Inauguration of the International Decade.

7. Proposals for an International Day of Indigenous People.

8. Programme of action for the International Decade:

   (a) Activities of the Coordinator;

   (b) Activities of the United Nations system;

   (c) Regional activities;

   (d) National activities;

   (e) Indigenous activities;

   (f) Non-governmental activities.

9. Financial plan for the International Decade:

   (a) Voluntary Fund for the International Decade;

   (b) Other activities.

10. Conclusions and recommendations.

C. Documentation

10. The following documents were made available to the Meeting:

E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/1	Provisional agenda
E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/2	Interim report of the Coordinator of the International Year of the World's Indigenous People: note by the secretariat
E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/3	Working paper submitted by the secretariat
E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/4	Report on the International Consultation on the Situation of the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic and Siberian Regions: note by the secretariat
E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/5 and Add.1	Information received from Governments
E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/6 and Add.1	Information received from the United Nations system
E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/7	Information received from indigenous organizations

E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/8	Information received from indigenous organizations
E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/CRP.1	Resolution adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 1994
E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/CRP.2	Open letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia
E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/CRP.3	Study on indigenous peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean by the International Fund for Agricultural Development
E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/CRP.4	List of income and expenditures of the Voluntary Fund for the International Year of the World's Indigenous People
E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/CRP.5	List of possible projects for the International Decade
E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/CRP.6	Excerpts from recommendations of the Indigenous Peoples Roundtable Meeting, convened by Maori Congress, held in Whakatane, Aotearoa, New Zealand, in June 1994
E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/CRP.7	Timetable and proposed plan of action for the First Assembly of the Indigenous Initiative for Peace (Mexico City, Mexico), 10 May 1994

D. Opening of the Meeting and election of officers

11. The Meeting was opened by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Coordinator of the International Year and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, Mr. Ibrahima Fall, on 20 July 1994. In his opening statement, Mr. Fall said that the Rapporteur of the Meeting, together with the secretariat, would be submitting the report of the Meeting to the fifty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights in February 1995, and preparing recommendations and suggestions for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People to be submitted to the twelfth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. He also said that, as Coordinator of the International Decade, he would be submitting a final report to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly on the activities conducted during the International Year, in which he would like to include the conclusions of the Technical Meeting. He noted that the Secretary-General was to submit to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly a first report containing a plan of action for the International Year and a final report with a global plan of action for the Decade, in 1995.

12. The Coordinator thanked the Governments, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and indigenous and non-governmental organizations that had responded favourably to his request for information on the activities conducted during the International Year of the World's Indigenous People and summarized those activities. More detailed information could be found in the interim report of the Coordinator of the International Year of the World's Indigenous People (E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/2). He thanked Governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals, as well as the Staff Coordinating Council of the United Nations Office at Geneva, for their contributions to the Voluntary Fund for the International Year of the World's Indigenous People. The Fund had received a total of $700,000, which had enabled it to finance 34 indigenous projects. He asked the meeting to think about how it might use the remaining amount, some $50,000, which had been received late.

13. He also thanked Ms. Rigoberta Menchú Tum, the Goodwill Ambassador for the International Year, for her devotion to the cause of indigenous peoples during the Year and for the useful recommendations produced by the two meetings of indigenous leaders that she had organized in 1993. He also expressed appreciation to the members of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations for completing the preparation of the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and expressed the hope that the text would be adopted rapidly by the General Assembly.

14. In 1993, the United Nations Centre for Human Rights had received thousands of requests for information on indigenous peoples, from throughout the world and from all types of institutions. The Year had significantly strengthened the indigenous cause, placing it firmly on the United Nations agenda, as shown by the recommendations of the World Conference on Human Rights that a decade for indigenous people should be proclaimed and that a permanent forum for indigenous people should be established in the United Nations system, both of which had been adopted by the General Assembly.

15. Mr. Fall reminded the Meeting that the goal of the International Decade was "the strengthening of international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education and health" and noted that the United Nations programme of activities for the Decade would be based on indigenous participation in the planning, implementation and evaluation stages of the projects that concerned them. The Technical Meeting would need to identify the priorities of the plan of action and the actors who would be implementing it and determine which human and financial resources would be needed.

16. The Coordinator suggested that four main areas of discussion should be considered: the structural framework and main actors of the programme of activities; the infrastructure needed to coordinate the activities of the Decade; a detailed programme of activities for the short term (1995-1996); and the financial aspects of the Decade. In that connection, he identified seven main actors: (a) the Centre for Human Rights; (b) the United Nations system; (c) regional intergovernmental organizations; (d) Member States; (e) indigenous organizations; (f) non-governmental organizations; and (g) other interested institutions (universities, the press and private

enterprises). He also noted that, following consultations with indigenous organizations, Governments and United Nations staff members, the Secretariat had decided that work should focus on specific annual topics during the Decade (health, children, etc.). He expressed his hope that an indigenous unit would be established within the Centre for Human Rights and be given adequate staffing, which should include trained indigenous people.

17. He requested that terms of reference should be drawn up for the Voluntary Fund for the Decade, that suggestions should be made on how indigenous people might regularly provide advice on how the Fund should be used, that a financial goal should be determined and that fund-raising strategies should be discussed. In conclusion, he asked for candidatures to be submitted to chair the Technical Meeting.

18. On behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, the representative of the Government of Peru nominated the Ambassador of Costa Rica, Jorge Rhenán Segura, as Chairperson of the Meeting. The representative of Australia seconded the nomination. Mr. Rhenán Segura was elected Chairperson of the Technical Meeting by acclamation.

19. The Chairperson thanked the regional groups that had submitted and supported his candidature, especially welcomed the indigenous people present, thanked Mr. Fall for his useful suggestions and noted that the main goal of the Meeting was to provide specific ideas for planning the activities of the Decade. He called on the participants to set priorities, identify actors, make practical proposals and avoid political discussions that would waste the little time available for the Meeting.

20. On behalf of several indigenous organizations, the representative of the International Indian Treaty Council nominated two Vice-Chairpersons of the Meeting, designated by the indigenous organizations. Mr. Rhenán Segura suggested that consultations should be held among the indigenous representatives during the morning and that the names of the nominees should be submitted at the beginning of the afternoon meeting. The indigenous Vice-Chairpersons designated were Ms. Ingrid Washinawatok, of the NGO Committee for the International Decade, and Mr. Mikhail Todyshev, of the Association of Shortz People of the Russian Federation.

E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

21. The provisional agenda (E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/1) was adopted without change. The secretariat indicated what documentation was available and discussion was opened on the organization of work.

22. Mr. Miguel Alfonso Martínez, an expert of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and a member of the Working Group, proposed that the two main topics before the Meeting - the evaluation of the International Year and the plan of action for the Decade - should be discussed in the order contained in the agenda and that a general debate should be held on each topic. That proposal was endorsed by the Chairman.

II. EVALUATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR

23. The Chairperson invited the participants to take up agenda item 4.

24. The activities of the Coordinator, including the Voluntary Fund for the International Year, were discussed by Mr. Ibrahima Fall in his opening statement. Additional information is contained in document E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/2.

25. The Goodwill Ambassador for the International Year, Mrs. Rigoberta Menchú Tum, said that the Year had made the world population more aware of the situation of indigenous peoples, thus helping to eliminate prejudices and stereotypes and to secure recognition of their differences and diverse circumstances and aspirations. She highlighted the meetings, conferences and struggles of the indigenous peoples in the course of 1993, which had made for unity with regard to values and aspirations. Personally, she had visited 28 countries in 1993, speaking with Government authorities and with indigenous communities, and had been received at all times with respect and trust. In her opinion, the experience showed that new relationships between indigenous peoples and the institutions of non-indigenous society were conceivable.

26. Mrs. Menchú called for further appraisal of the experiences of the Year and of remedies for the shortcomings in implementation: the absence of massive campaigns in educational centres, both worldwide and nationwide; the half-hearted commitment of some Governments to resolving social inequalities and the marginalization of the indigenous populations in their countries; inadequate information campaigns; and insufficient financial resources. She proposed that the first year of the Decade should be used to evaluate the Year and to assess the impact on Governments, private institutions and non-governmental organizations of the appeal to contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the Decade.

27. Some specialized agencies in the United Nations system expanded on the information about their activities during the International Year contained in the interim report by the Coordinator of the International Year of the World's Indigenous People (E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/2).

28. The representative of Habitat (United Nations Centre for Human Settlements) said that his organization's projects in 1993 had paid special attention to the needs of indigenous peoples and emphasized their development priorities. Habitat had initiated an in-depth study into the importance of land as a source of identity for indigenous peoples and on the basic services needed by those peoples. The study was to be issued worldwide and would act as a guide in shaping future policies. The preliminary findings revealed that Governments, development agencies, the specialized agencies and the international community at large must recognize the indigenous concept of community ownership of the land in defining policies and providing technical assistance to developing countries. He called on Governments to adopt a more flexible attitude towards basic services. Such services were generally supplied to sedentary populations or required nomadic peoples to become sedentary, thereby having a serious social, economic and cultural impact on them.

29. The representative of Habitat went on to report about the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held in Istanbul in June 1996, and expressed the hope that Governments would involve the indigenous populations in the preparatory activities and include indigenous representatives in the national committees. Lastly, he proposed the adoption of the suggestion that each year of the Decade should be set aside for a specific topic, that 1996 should be on issues concerning the promotion of housing and related infrastructure and that a seminar on land rights and claims should be programmed for the same year.

30. The representative of the ILO said that his organization's activities in 1993 had taken three directions: (a) to promote ratification of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169) by a maximum number of States; (b) to develop technical assistance programmes for indigenous peoples; and (c) to publish material on topics of interest to indigenous peoples. In the course of the Decade, work would continue along those lines.

31. The representative of UNESCO said that the agency had stepped up its activities to secure a stronger culture of peace and tolerance.

32. The representative of UNDP referred to the information contained in paragraph 240 of document E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/2 and added that UNDP was preparing national and regional activities and an interregional initiative to support meetings by indigenous peoples and organizations in Latin America, Asia and the Pacific to work out partnerships and strategies for the preservation and enhancement of their knowledge and skills.

33. The representative of the World Bank spoke of some of the projects funded by the Bank's Small Grants Programme in 1993 and 1994 and of direct benefit to indigenous organizations: the International Conference on Protection of the Treasures of the Ancestors, in Aotearoa, New Zealand; participation by representatives of indigenous groups in the XIth Indigenous Inter-American Congress, Managua, Nicaragua; a regional seminar on "The Health of Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon Region"; and the International Conference on Indigenous Peoples and Water Resource Development Projects.

34. Several Governments reported on the activities undertaken in the course of the International Year in their country.

35. The representative of the Ministry of the Interior of Finland said that, in his country, a special committee had been set up, appointed by the Government and by the Sami Council, which had worked for more than two years on the International Year. The Committee had encouraged Sami organizations and bodies to act independently and to acquaint the public at large with their culture; it had fostered independent development projects by Sami communities and made administrative reforms to strengthen Sami self-determination. The Sami organizations had been very active in 1993, widely distributing information about their culture in schools, had begun to implement independent development programmes in Sami regions and made proposals to the Government to strengthen their self-determination.

36. The Director of the Indigenous Development Corporation of Chile said that the decision to proclaim the International Year had been a valuable political acknowledgement of the need to discuss the indigenous question and had raised legitimate expectations among the indigenous populations. Despite the major effort made by various parties concerned in the course of 1993, the results had sometimes been inadequate. At the domestic level, scattered efforts and coordination problems had affected the participation of the sectors concerned. One important achievement of the International Year in Chile had been the adoption of Act No. 19,253, establishing basic rules for the protection and development of indigenous peoples. Similarly, the National Indigenous Development Corporation (CONADI) had been established and coordinated State action to meet the needs and aspirations of the indigenous peoples of Chile. It was a body consisting basically of indigenous persons and was engaged in training and cultural activities, supported by the World Bank.

37. The representative of Colombia said that, in 1993, headway had been made in the implementation of the rules concerning indigenous peoples set forth in the 1991 Constitution and also of ILO Convention No. 169, ratified by Colombia that same year. Local, regional and national coordination bodies had been set up, as had human rights committees with indigenous representatives, and committees on activities in mining, health, education and other matters of interest. The Constitution recognized the indigenous communities' ownership of their lands and there were now 385 legally recognized protected areas. The process of strengthening the capacity to manage those lands and the resources transferred by the Government had been buttressed during the International Year. In addition, a nationwide indigenous census had been conducted and the results were to be published soon.

38. The representative of Canada said that, in her country, no national committee for the Decade had been established, but several committees had been set up at the federal level and in various regions of Canada. Activities had been carried out in all spheres identified as priorities for the Year: human rights, the environment, development, education and health - with the active participation of the aboriginal organizations, above all at the community level. Several projects have been aimed at young people: producing educational material, exchanges and lectures. Some projects specific to the Year had included a conference on traditional skills and preserving them through indigenous languages, organized by the Assembly of First Nations; the North American Indigenous Games, in Saskatchewan; and the National Aboriginal Achievements Awards. The Government of Canada had prepared a detailed official report on the activities carried out in Canada during the International Year, which was submitted and circulated at the Meeting.

39. The representative of Norway spoke of the establishment of a national committee in his country, a committee in which the Sami had played a direct part in planning the Year and in decision-making on priorities for the use of funds. An attempt had been made in Norway to create greater public awareness of indigenous peoples and human rights by means of an information and education campaign on indigenous rights. To that end, a magazine had been published, educational material had been prepared, exhibitions had been held in the Arctic region, contacts had been established between Sami students and young non-indigenous persons and there had been exchanges with young Indians

and Inuit from Canada. The Sami Council had organized an international conference on traditional education of indigenous children and another on indigenous policies and self-government.

40. The representative of the Government of the Netherlands said that, although it had no indigenous population, his country had been the setting for an important event in November 1993: the Voices of the Earth Congress, a Government supported private initiative. In addition, the Government had contributed to the Voluntary Fund for the International Year and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Development Cooperation had prepared a memorandum as a guide to Government policy on indigenous peoples in respect of foreign policy, human rights and cooperation.

41. The representative of the Government of New Zealand reported on the partnership committee established in her country for the International Year to administer funds and select projects for the Maori. The achievements of the Year included the Maatatua Conference on Intellectual Property, the publication of statistics, maps and other information material on the Maori and the holding of art exhibitions. Instruction in the Maori language at the pre-school level was also being encouraged.

42. The representative of the Greenland Home Rule Government and the Government of Denmark said that a provisional report on the Year had already been issued. In 1993, everything relating to Greenland had been widely publicized and the Inuit had become increasingly aware that they belonged to a global community of indigenous peoples. Seminars and information campaigns had been organized and it had been possible to achieve a higher profile for the indigenous peoples. The Danish attitude was to involve indigenous persons and NGOs in planning and to place emphasis on indigenous matters in development aid programmes. The same would be done during the Decade. The Year's most outstanding achievements, both internally and internationally, had been the First Ministerial Conference on the Arctic Environment, in Nuuk (Greenland), the completion of the process of elaborating the draft Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and the call to establish a permanent forum for indigenous peoples in the United Nations system. Unfortunately, there were also negative aspects: the violations of the human rights of certain indigenous peoples still continued and some programmes could not be implemented for lack of political will or lack of resources. Consequently, one priority for the Decade was to have sufficient funds. The Government of Denmark undertook to make a contribution, as it had during the Year.

43. The representative of Australia said that a year was too short a period to produce lasting results in all areas of concern to indigenous peoples, but greater awareness had been achieved. In Australia, a national committee had been established to coordinate activities and the Government and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) and other indigenous organizations had tried to improve relations and bring about a better understanding of indigenous issues. Regrettably, resources were scarce at the international level and not enough national committees had been established.

44. The representative of Brazil reported on progress in the process of demarcating indigenous land in his country in 1993; 272 indigenous areas had been demarcated. The Government was implementing a policy of preserving indigenous territories, languages and cultures and encouraging participation by indigenous peoples in decision-making on issues that affected them. Recently an inter-agency commission had been established with Government and non-governmental participation to consider programmes and projects on the environment, health and productive activity. The commission would continue its activities during the Decade, under the coordination of the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI). In 1993, Congress had started to debate further national legislation on the status of the indigenous populations to include some of the principles set out in ILO Convention No. 169 and to protect the intellectual property rights of indigenous peoples. He hoped that the Decade would enlist support and enthusiasm in securing full enjoyment of the rights of indigenous persons as citizens of their national societies.

45. The representative of Sweden said that, in his country, the Year had been an opportunity to circulate information and to educate the population about the situation of the Sami and other indigenous peoples of the world. The Sami Parliament had been inaugurated and it would decide on the allocation of funds to promote Sami culture and support Sami organizations. Sweden had made a substantial contribution to the Voluntary Fund for the International Year of the World's Indigenous People. For the International Decade, it was necessary to determine the main actors for carrying out the plan of action, the financial implications of those activities and the possible sources of funding. He also pointed to the need to work out a practical and accessible communications strategy.

46. The representative of Estonia spoke of the efforts of some non-governmental organizations to promote relations between various groups of the Finno-Ugric family in Estonia, north-east Russia and Siberia and she mentioned some of the problems affecting the 15 Finno-Ugric ethnic groups, basically with regard to environmental conditions and the preservation of their cultural identity and education. She described a programme of scholarships awarded by the Government of Estonia to improve the education of indigenous students and said that her Government was planning an international conference on the role of women and the family in the indigenous communities, to be held in 1997.

47. The Minister of Local Government, Lands and Housing of Botswana said that, in his country, the 60,000 indigenous Bushman inhabitants experienced serious difficulties: no secure land rights, no basic services and unfavourable economic circumstances. The Government was endeavouring to provide infrastructure to improve the living conditions of those groups and to integrate them into national society. Since 1974, work had been going on under the Remote Areas Development Programme to build housing and schools and provide drinking water for remote regions. In 1993, a national conference had been held with the direct participation of the indigenous peoples of Botswana, followed by a regional conference to discuss development strategies that would reflect the needs and aspirations of indigenous peoples. The International Year had succeeded in making the public aware of the situation and the grievances of the indigenous peoples. In the near future, the land rights of

the indigenous peoples in Botswana were to be ensured and programmes were to be initiated to create jobs and income in the indigenous areas.

48. The representative of the Government of Japan reported on activities to publicize the International Year with pamphlets and posters. For lack of an internationally accepted definition of the concept of "indigenous populations", the Government of her country had not taken any decision on the status of the indigenous Ainu, but had in any event organized a series of exhibitions to acquaint the public with the culture and tradition of the Ainu. Furthermore, Japan had contributed to the Voluntary Fund for the International Year and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had supported a project organized by the local government of Hokkaido.

49. The representative of the Government of the Philippines reported on two events held in the Philippines in 1993 to celebrate the Year: the First Conference of Asian Indigenous Women and the Global Youth Earth Saving Summit.

50. Several indigenous organizations reported on activities carried out during 1993.

51. The Chairperson of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), of Australia, said that the International Year of the World's Indigenous People had made for greater awareness of indigenous rights and for growing understanding and acceptance of the cultures of indigenous peoples, in both their traditional and contemporary forms. She emphasized that the challenge for the future was to translate the commitment of the international community and of Governments into action and to acquire resources, both human and financial, for which purpose appropriate planning and implementation and realistic targets were necessary.

52. The achievements of the International Year in Australia included the greater international visibility of Aboriginal artists, the statement made by the Prime Minister of Australia when the Year had been inaugurated, recognizing the dispossession suffered by the indigenous peoples of Australia, the paramount importance of the Mabo judgement for recognition of the land rights of the Australian Aborigines and the marked changes to be seen in the relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous persons in Australia. She described a number of the activities carried out by Australian indigenous organizations during the Year and said that ATSIC had prepared a detailed report on the International Year in her country. ATSIC had played an important role, coordinating activities nationwide, establishing a secretariat and a national committee and providing the Centre for Human Rights with an official who had worked in Geneva for two years.

53. She also pointed to some of the problems evidenced during the Year at the international level: the indifference shown by some Governments, the absence of celebrations in several countries and the few resources allocated for the Year. With United Nations guidance, the Decade would provide a unique opportunity to deal with those issues and make a true impact on the lives of indigenous peoples. Accordingly, it was necessary to set specific, realistic objectives, to provide the requisite resources and to make the most strategic use of existing resources.

54. A representative of the Pacific Asian Council of Indigenous Peoples (PACIP) said that the celebration of the International Year in Hawaii had coincided with the centenary of the overthrow of that independent nation by the United States of America. An Advisory Commission on Hawaiian Sovereignty had been established in the legislature of the State of Hawaii and would be making recommendations on exercise of the right to self-determination by the people of the islands. In late 1993, the United States Congress had adopted a resolution submitting formal excuses to the indigenous people of Hawaii for that aggression and had proposed to implement a programme to compensate for the harm they had suffered. Those events reflected the increasing acknowledgement of the historical rights of the indigenous people of Hawaii.

55. The representative of the Consultative Committee of Finno-Ugric People said it was gratifying that the Year had afforded an opportunity to examine issues such as the language, traditions, crafts and culture of the regions inhabited by the Finno-Ugric populations and she thanked the United Nations for the initiative taken in organizing regional consultations, as had been the case in Siberia in September 1993. A guarantee of the success of the celebrations lay in the participation of the indigenous peoples and she described two of her Committee's activities: a seminar on autonomy and self-management, and another, organized with UNESCO, on the problems of the Finno-Ugric languages. Both events had had a large number of participants.

56. The representative of the Maori Legal Service said that, in New Zealand, the Government had established a partnership committee and a large number of initiatives had been taken by small NGOs. Unfortunately, the partnership committee had not yet been operative at the start of the Year, which had cut down the opportunities for carrying out some activities, and an initiative to meet to discuss sovereignty and self-determination had been turned by the authorities into a meeting on Maori management of economic resources. Fortunately, however, a Maori elder had been able to speak to the General Assembly at the opening meeting in New York on legislation doing away with Maori fishing rights, but he had been criticized in official circles on his return to New Zealand. Lastly, the introduction of the first post-graduate course on indigenous studies had been a tribal initiative and not a Government initiative and he called on the New Zealand Government to engage in a committed partnership during the Decade.

57. The representative of the Human Rights Commission of New Zealand referred to the First International Conference of Indigenous Women, attended by women from 11 countries who had discussed their experiences in respect of common problems, such as discrimination, dispossession of land and the disappearance of indigenous languages. She also mentioned a number of meetings on human rights issues at which lengthy discussions had taken place on the question of self-determination, the new partnership and the Waitangi Treaty.

58. The representative of PACIP reported on the Second World Indigenous Youth Conference, held in Darwin, Australia, and on the World Indigenous Peoples' Conference: Education, held in Wollongong in December 1993. Both conferences had recommended the prompt adoption of the United Nations draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples.

59. The representative of the National Council of Nahuatl Culture (CONCUNA), Mexico, spoke of a large meeting of the Nahuatl people held in 1993 in Chilpancingo to discuss the problem of the River Balsas Dam, and several meetings of indigenous women designed to increase their participation in health and spiritual well-being programmes. She proposed that famous artists, including indigenous artists, should be asked to make a contribution to financing the Decade.

60. The representative of the Sami Council spoke on behalf of the Sami in Russia, Sweden, Finland and Norway. She said there were detailed reports on the activities carried out in the Year in the region, and it was regrettable that no solution had been found to the problems of the Sami in Russia in 1993. In the Nordic countries, although resources had been limited, activities had been undertaken to call attention to the situation of the Sami in the spheres of publicity, culture, art and language. In Finland, major advances had been made in legislation, but not with regard to land rights. In Sweden, the Sameting, the Sami Parliament, had been inaugurated, but at the same time the Swedish Parliament had enacted a law whereby every Swedish citizen was entitled to use the traditional Sami hunting grounds. In Norway, Sami territory was subject to prospecting activities by transnational mining companies and the implementation of ILO Convention No. 169 under internal legislation was still pending. Despite the difficulties encountered, the Year had been a first step towards fulfilment of the objectives formulated in proclaiming it.

61. The representative of the Imbabura Indigenous and Peasant Federation (Ecuador) emphasized the recognition gained by indigenous peoples throughout the world as a result of the International Year and of national policy discussions. An Indigenous Affairs Secretariat had been established in her country. Unfortunately, there was some lack of information about the Year among the communities and she expressed the hope that participation, together with available resources, would be channelled through representative indigenous organizations. The Decade should consolidate the struggles of indigenous peoples, particularly with regard to recognition of their land, cultural and language rights.

62. The representative of the Indigenous Association of the Argentine Republic (AIRA) said that the Year had been celebrated nationwide under Act No. 24,135, adopted by Congress. AIRA had organized, with the National University of Santiago del Estero, a national evaluation meeting, which had discussed problems of marginalization, education, legislation, land, development, health, the legal situation and the inclusion of indigenous rights in the reform of the Constitution currently under way.

63. The representative of the Loita of Kenya emphasized activities intended to strengthen identity and culture, to consolidate land rights and traditional land-tenure systems, to protect the environment and to administer cultural and religious sites.

64. The representative of the Ainu Association of Hokkaido, Japan, reported on film festivals, a festival of Ainu music and other cultural events and called on the Japanese Government to pay more attention to the indigenous peoples during the Decade.

65. The representative of the Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB) said that the Year had made people better acquainted with the indigenous peoples of Brazil and the world and had signified recognition by the international community and by non-indigenous society. Despite the proclamation of the Year, the enjoyment of land rights was still not fully guaranteed. A number of serious conflicts had affected the indigenous peoples of Brazil in 1993, causing numerous deaths, expulsions and threats. He none the less expressed his hopes for the future and for the possibility of continuing negotiations with the Government and other social sectors in a spirit of solidarity.

66. A member of the Indian Confederation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (India) said it was regrettable that the Year had been marked by increasing violence against the Adivasi in his country, especially in connection with their control of the land and natural resources. While the Government of India had organized an international conference in Bhopal to celebrate the Year, the Adivasi had celebrated 1993 by endeavouring to set up a national confederation. Workshops had been organized nationwide on issues such as dispossession of land, water resources, forests and culture, the draft Declaration and other international instruments. A national event, attended by Rigoberta Menchú Tum, had been organized in November. The Adivasi movement was making headway in negotiating agreements on autonomy and had conducted a two-month campaign in Europe to enlist support and had received an encouraging response.

67. The representatives of the Association of the Shortz People, the Keto People and the Association of Teleut People "Ene-Bayat" of the Russian Federation said that an organizing committee established in 1993 had not received financial support from the Government. The Year had not had much of a success in Russia, but had been of fundamental importance to the indigenous peoples who were threatened with extinction. They called on the Government of the Russian Federation to enact appropriate legislation on the traditional use of natural resources and on the status of the nationalities and to show more interest in the International Decade and assign resources for it. They expressed particular concern about the peoples that were in few in number and were in danger of disappearing.

68. Some indigenous representatives took the view that, in their countries, the International Year had had no effect because of the lack of interest shown by Governments, a shortage of resources and difficulties in conveying information about the Year to the communities. Concern was expressed about the fact that it had not been possible to fund 9 out of every 10 projects submitted to the Voluntary Fund for the International Year. Technical assistance was requested for indigenous organizations in submitting projects and indigenous participation in the management of funds during the Decade. Several indigenous speakers also pointed out that, in some cases, violations of the basic rights of indigenous peoples had continued and the economic crises in their countries had affected them very much. It was emphasized that all those difficulties ought to be considered for the purposes of planning and carrying out activities during the Decade.

69. The representative of an indigenous organization from North Africa mentioned the difficulties encountered by his people in 1993 in demanding the right to use and teach its language in schools and in demanding recognition of its identity.

70. The representative of an indigenous organization in Mexico questioned the legality of some 700 religious sects in her country, when expressions of indigenous religions were frequently subject to restrictions. It was regrettable that the indigenous populations were not entitled to carry out their ceremonies at holy places without special permission from the Government and that they had to pay royalties to reproduce artistic objects from Mexico's pre-Columbian cultures.

71. At the close of the discussion of agenda item 4, the representatives of the Governments of Canada and Brazil expressed concern about the fact that some of the shortcomings of the Year, such as the lack of technical assistance for the submission of projects, should have formed part of the Programme of Action of the International Year and should not be repeated during the Decade. The representative of the Government of Brazil added that the Coordinator's interim report (E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/2) merely reflected the points of view of indigenous groups and did not properly convey those of Governments. He regretted that the document did not include recommendations made at previous Technical Meetings.

72. The Chairperson of the Technical Meeting thanked the participants for their important contribution to the evaluation of the International Year and emphasized the many activities which had taken place at the national level, on the initiative both of Governments and of non-governmental organizations.

III. PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE

A. Objectives

73. At the opening of the morning meeting on 21 July, the Chairperson invited the participants to consider agenda item 5.

74. A number of indigenous organizations said that the International Decade was an achievement of indigenous peoples and that they should be the subjects and principal beneficiaries of the activities undertaken. The success of the Decade was bound to depend on the amount of resources that would be allocated for it, on the extent to which indigenous peoples' decision-making powers were strengthened and on the improvements that would be made in their living conditions. The desire was expressed that objectives should be formulated more from the standpoint of positive concepts of social justice and of achieving results than from the identification of problems and difficulties. A certain number of quantifiable targets should be set in specific development areas that could be evaluated at the end of the Decade. Those targets might include significantly reducing the rates of infant mortality, illiteracy, imprisonment and violence in the home, increasing investment in education and research and expanding the trade and spheres of independence of indigenous peoples.

75. The representative of the Government of Brazil pointed out that the General Assembly had already defined the objectives of the Decade in its resolution 48/163 of 21 December 1993. That resolution could be elaborated in greater depth, but must be the principal reference for the discussion. He also observed that the concept of "international cooperation" was not limited to cooperation between the Secretariat of the United Nations and indigenous communities and that it basically meant cooperation between States. The areas of cooperation to be expanded at a later stage would therefore have to take account of the fundamental role of States. Furthermore, during the Decade, each United Nations agency would have to have its own programme of action for its specific field of expertise. He congratulated the World Health Assembly on its resolution concerning the Decade and suggested that chapter 26 of Agenda 21 should be taken as the basis of a plan of action for the Decade.

76. A large number of indigenous organizations said that the principal goal of the Decade was the strengthening and recognition of indigenous peoples' rights at the international and national levels, including the right to self-determination, and that goal should be reflected in the actual title of the Decade. It was proposed that the themes and objectives of the Decade should be linked to the text of the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples.

77. Indigenous and government representatives agreed that a fundamental objective of the Decade was the proclamation of that declaration by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The indigenous representatives present called for full participation by their organizations in all the international forums in which the draft declaration would be discussed. Several expressed their wish that the Working Group on Indigenous Populations should begin preparing a draft international convention on the rights of indigenous peoples.

78. The establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous peoples in the United Nations system, as provided for by the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.157/23) and also by General Assembly resolution 48/163 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/28, was considered an important objective of the Decade by various indigenous organizations. The Governments of Australia, Chile, Denmark and Norway expressly stated their support for that proposal.

79. An indigenous representative from Central America expressed the wish that non-indigenous society and Governments should be educated and sensitized over the next 10 years to ensure that indigenous cultures were appreciated and that cooperation was encouraged between indigenous peoples and other, non-indigenous groups in society, such as rural and urban workers. He stressed the need to revise school textbooks to eliminate any discriminatory content and proposed the widespread introduction of bilingual and intercultural education in countries where indigenous peoples lived.

80. A Canadian indigenous representative said that the world should be educated about the human rights of indigenous peoples and communities and awareness of the actual degree of implementation of those rights should be created at the national and international levels. Another representative from the same region said that special measures should be taken to inform the world

about endangered indigenous peoples and to deal with situations that threatened the very survival of some indigenous peoples.

81. Several indigenous representatives objected to the proposal to devote each year of the Decade to a specific theme, arguing that 10 themes would not cover all the concerns of indigenous peoples and would dilute the central objectives of the Decade, that they could be used by some Governments to promote their own policies and initiatives without consulting indigenous peoples and that addressing particular themes in isolation from others with which they were intimately linked was not consistent with the holistic world view of indigenous peoples. Some preferred setting quantifiable targets that would make it possible to evaluate the actual progress achieved in 10 years.

82. Other indigenous organizations supported the idea of selecting a few specific topics each year within the framework of the general themes of the Decade, since that would facilitate the development and evaluation of national and international action programmes. It was essential, however, to include topics such as the rights to intellectual and cultural property, land rights, indigenous rights, environment and development, work, rural populations, housing, social organization and self-government, education, science and technology. There was also a need to link the themes and objectives that would be established internationally with national situations and priorities.

83. The representatives of the Governments of Chile, New Zealand and Sweden, as well as the representative of the ILO, supported the idea of thematic years that would make it possible to focus attention on priority concerns for indigenous peoples. The Government of Sweden expressed its keen interest in the theme of education and information, directed towards indigenous and non-indigenous societies alike.

84. The representative of the Government of Chile said that States should take action during the Decade to recognize formally the existence and rights of indigenous peoples, to create mechanisms for disseminating the objectives of the Decade at the national level, to devise policies for the promotion and protection of indigenous rights and to support coordination efforts at the regional level through existing mechanisms. Furthermore, States should take concrete steps to sign, ratify and implement international instruments which protected the rights of indigenous peoples, to adapt educational systems to multicultural realities, to regularize land ownership by indigenous communities and to safeguard those peoples' cultural and linguistic heritage.

85. The representatives of the Governments of New Zealand, Chile, Australia, Norway and Sweden and of various indigenous organizations supported the initiative to create a unit in the Centre for Human Rights with responsibility for the activities of the Decade and all issues relating to indigenous peoples. The unit should be provided with sufficient human resources, including qualified indigenous professionals, and adequate infrastructure.

86. Several Government representatives stressed the need to appoint coordinators on indigenous affairs in the various specialized United Nations bodies to facilitate coherent planning of activities for the Decade. Those specialized bodies might, in addition, compile statistical data on indigenous peoples within their respective fields of expertise.

87. The representative of the Government of Australia said that the Decade was for indigenous peoples and Governments alike and that the major challenge was to establish mechanisms for full consultation and cooperation between them in the planning and implementation of activities for the Decade. National committees would have to be set up in each country for that purpose.

88. Many representatives of indigenous organizations drew attention to the fundamental importance of taking action aimed at recognizing and protecting the land rights of indigenous peoples and promoting environmental conservation and recovery during the Decade as essential ways of safeguarding the culture and identity of those peoples. The United Nations would have to support and supervise implementation of the principles laid down in Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Governments should create mechanisms for the restitution and demarcation of indigenous lands and effectively safeguard indigenous peoples' inalienable rights to them.

89. Some indigenous representatives suggested that promoting the rights of indigenous women from childhood should be an objective of the Decade. Others stressed the importance of addressing major health concerns, such as alcoholism and drug abuse.

90. The need to establish formal and regular arrangements for consultation with indigenous communities and organizations in the planning of activities for the Decade was highlighted by a large number of participants. The importance of improving coordination within the United Nations system and at national and regional levels was also underlined. Emphasis was placed on the need to secure more substantial contributions to support the activities and programmes of the Decade.

B. Inauguration of the International Decade

91. Several indigenous representatives expressed their wish that the Decade should be officially opened at an inauguration ceremony, on approximately 10 December 1994, during the next session of the General Assembly in New York.

92. The Goodwill Ambassador for the International Year stressed the importance of having a symbolic delegation of indigenous peoples attend the General Assembly for the inauguration ceremony and proposed that national inauguration ceremonies should be held with the direct participation of the United Nations agencies working in each country. Those ceremonies should have an educative function for the rest of national society.

93. The representative of the Government of Brazil supported Mrs. Rigoberta Menchu Tum's suggestion of holding two kinds of inauguration ceremonies and stressed the importance of national ceremonies in raising awareness and educating the public with regard to the goals of the Decade. In his view, greater priority should be given to such ceremonies. The ceremony in New York might be held on Monday, 12 December 1994.

94. The representative of the Government of Chile supported the idea of an international inauguration ceremony and ceremonies at the national level.

C. International Day of Indigenous People

95. The representative of the Ainu Association of Hokkaido said that, of the several possible dates for marking the International Day of the World's Indigenous People, the one that had acquired an importance and common significance for indigenous people throughout the world was the first day on which the Working Group on Indigenous Populations had met, i.e. 9 August 1982. On behalf of Spanish-speaking indigenous organizations, the representative of the Consejo de Todas las Tierras organization of Chile supported that proposal.

96. The representative of the Government of Brazil proposed that the International Day should coincide with the inauguration of the International Decade. He suggested 12 December as a tentative date.

97. The representative of the United Nations Department of Public Information said that, if international days were to have an educative function, it was important for them not to coincide with school holidays.

98. Other indigenous representatives suggested that the date chosen should recall the efforts made in the League of Nations by Chief Haudenosaunee Deskaheh, the first indigenous leader to sensitize the international community to the rights of his people, but no specific date was proposed.

D. Programme of action for the International Decade

99. The representative of the Government of Australia stressed the need for the programme of action to be elaborated in full consultation and collaboration with indigenous peoples, in keeping with the guiding principle of the Decade - partnership. The goals, themes and objectives of the Decade should reflect a commitment to social justice and provide for evaluation mechanisms, including a conference towards the middle of the Decade.

1. Activities of the Coordinator

100. The representative of the Government of Sweden proposed that the Coordinator should establish a special unit within the Centre for Human Rights to coordinate the activities of the Decade. In addition, the Coordinator should inform Governments and indigenous organizations of the names and addresses of the indigenous affairs coordinators of the various organizations of the United Nations system.

101. The representatives of Australia and Sweden proposed that the Coordinator should explore possible sources of funding for the Decade, including Governments, the private sector, financial and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and the mass media.

102. Some speakers referred to the need for the Coordinator to establish a programme of direct and regular contacts with indigenous organizations, communities and peoples to ensure an effective flow of information about the progress of the Decade.

103. Several participants suggested the creation of an advisory body for the Coordinator, to be made up of indigenous experts and other persons with relevant knowledge and experience of indigenous questions, to assist the Coordinator in decision-making with regard to the Decade.

2. Activities of the United Nations system

104. Many speakers proposed that a post of coordinator for indigenous affairs should be established in each organization of the United Nations system, as some agencies had done during the Year, and that those coordinators should exchange information regularly and hold discussions on the respective activities for the Decade.

105. The representative of the Department of Public Information described some of the information activities undertaken by DPI to promote the Decade and said that her office would continue to provide news coverage of the various international meetings concerned with indigenous issues. It would likewise participate in the organization of the inauguration ceremony for the Decade. The Department would encourage its national information centres to devote particular attention to the cause of indigenous peoples during the Decade. The final text of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples would be published in the six official languages and given wide distribution, especially to educational institutions, with translations provided in indigenous languages where possible. Lastly, it should be remembered that DPI also had to promote other Decades, with limited financial and human resources, and priorities therefore had to be selected with care.

106. The Government of Sweden proposed that DPI, in close cooperation with the Coordinator, should also participate actively in fund-raising for the Decade, as well as promoting its goals and programme of action. Other organizations of the United Nations system should examine how they could utilize some of their regular resources for activities intended to meet indigenous needs and concerns.

107. The representative of UNESCO said that, during the Decade, her organization would follow six lines of action: (1) development of the endogenous capacities of indigenous peoples, through training of indigenous leaders and craftsmen; (2) protection of the intangible cultural heritage of indigenous peoples, through the preparation of glossaries, dictionaries and grammars of indigenous languages; (3) bilingual education, which would be promoted with the publication of teaching manuals and other educational materials; (4) support of indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge about the preservation of plants and ecosystems for medicine and foods, as part of the Persons and Plants Programme launched in 1993 in various countries; (5) integration of indigenous migrants from rural areas into their new urban places of residence, with the object of consolidating the multicultural nature of such large urban centres; and (6) cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of joint projects. Lastly, the first national congress on Maya education would take place in Guatemala in 1995 and UNESCO would receive technical assistance from indigenous experts in the field of education.

108. The representative of FAO said that, while her agency had no special programmes for indigenous peoples, it was working in a number of areas that were relevant for the Decade. Those areas included indigenous knowledge that was most valuable for the development of genetic resources. FAO was organizing the Fourth International Technical Conference for Plant Genetic Resources, which would take place in Germany in 1996, and indigenous peoples could make an important contribution to its preparation. Indigenous peoples' knowledge was also relevant to the FAO Forests, Trees and People Programme, which aimed to incorporate the resource management practices of forest peoples into the corresponding development strategies.

109. FAO was also carrying out research on people's organizations, job creation and income generation, focusing especially on the role of women in indigenous societies as transmitters of knowledge of essential agricultural techniques. Lastly, another important area of FAO work was the promotion of pastoral peoples' organizations. A workshop would be held in Kazakhstan in August 1994. FAO recognized the fundamental importance of access to land and recognition of the communal rights of pastoral peoples and assigned priority to indigenous areas threatened with privatization. It proposed the establishment of links between the various groups participating in the current research and proposed to publish and disseminate the results of the research, provide technical assistance and facilitate dialogue with Governments.

110. The representative of UNDP reported on a series of regional meetings between his agency and indigenous peoples of Latin America, Asia and the Pacific to define jointly strategies to preserve and apply their knowledge. A programme of collaboration between UNDP, bilateral and multilateral agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations and indigenous communities was also being set up to plan development activities that would meet indigenous peoples' needs.

111. The representative of the ILO stressed the need to coordinate agencies' activities through periodic consultations, in which regional organizations such as the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, regional banks and other bodies should be involved. The direct participation of and consultation with grass-roots indigenous organizations were also important.

112. The representative of the Government of Australia proposed that the specialized agencies should recruit indigenous experts to advise them on priority areas and that an inter-agency committee should be established to provide coordination and eliminate any duplication of effort. That committee should meet at least once a year during the Decade.

113. Asian indigenous organizations said that the mandate of the High Commissioner for Human Rights should specifically include the monitoring of the situation of the human rights of indigenous peoples and that public information and education campaigns covering the international human rights instruments concerned with indigenous peoples should be conducted during the Decade. Some indigenous organizations proposed the appointment of a high commissioner for indigenous peoples.

114. An indigenous representative from North America suggested that the Commission on Human Rights should include a special item in its agenda during the Decade to consider the report of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations.

115. Several indigenous representatives suggested that special financial assistance should be provided during the Decade for special rapporteurs undertaking studies on themes relating to indigenous peoples.

116. One indigenous representative suggested that indigenous leaders with outstanding spiritual or intellectual gifts should be appointed goodwill ambassadors for the International Decade.

117. An indigenous representative from Central America proposed that 1995 should be declared the "International Year of Indigenous Youth", during which meetings could be held for indigenous young people to discuss their problems and concerns and scholarship programmes could be set up for indigenous students.

118. The representative of an African indigenous organization said that one form of discrimination often affecting indigenous peoples was to be ignored by the academic literature. To counteract that lack of information, the United Nations should initiate a programme of research and publications on the history, political organization, economy, laws, culture and health of indigenous peoples, with particular emphasis on the situation of women. A kind of encyclopedia of indigenous peoples could be written and special funds should be set aside for that purpose.

119. The same speaker further suggested the establishment of a committee to study cases of internal colonization and to combat them with the same determination as had been applied three decades earlier in the struggle for decolonization. Another indigenous representative of the Pacific region said that such a task might form part of the mandate of the permanent forum for indigenous people. A North American indigenous representative proposed that the permanent forum should have the power to settle conflicts arising from non-compliance with the clauses of treaties signed between indigenous nations and States.

120. One indigenous speaker suggested that research should be undertaken during the Decade on models of self-determination in the post-cold war period, with a view to proposing concrete and viable solutions to indigenous peoples' calls for self-determination.

121. An African indigenous organization called for financial support from the United Nations to hold a regional conference of indigenous peoples in Nairobi in June 1995 on the topic "Traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples" and expressed the hope that such a meeting would help to advance thinking on the subject of the intellectual and cultural property rights of indigenous peoples.

122. A North American indigenous speaker proposed the holding of two world games for indigenous nations during the Decade, in view of the positive effects that such competitions had on the life of indigenous communities.

3. Regional activities

123. The representative of the Government of Sweden expressed the hope that relations and exchanges of knowledge and experience between indigenous peoples would be promoted and intensified at the regional and subregional levels and that the networks established during the International Year would be strengthened. For such contacts to be consolidated during the Decade, it would be necessary to provide financial support and appropriate infrastructure.

124. The representative of an indigenous organization of the Arctic region said that environmental issues would be priorities in the Arctic during the Decade. Those issues included the management of land and resources. He urged that indigenous knowledge of environmental conservation should be taken into account in all development strategies. He denounced the constant attacks of a number of movements which were opposed to hunting and fishing in the Arctic and which threatened the traditional livelihood of the region's indigenous peoples. He proposed the holding of an international conference on indigenous fishing, hunting and gathering activities during the Decade to combat those prejudices.

125. The representative of the indigenous organizations of the Asian region called for special assistance to be provided for Asian indigenous peoples to enable them to participate in United Nations meetings. She also requested that consideration should be given to the possibility of the Working Group holding at least two of its meetings during the Decade in the Asian region. A North American indigenous representative urged the Working Group to meet in areas where large numbers of indigenous peoples lived (Latin America, Asia).

126. A North African indigenous representative suggested the establishment of regional coordination committees to organize information meetings with local indigenous communities.

4. National activities

127. Several indigenous organizations urged Governments to set up commissions for the formulation and implementation of policies in areas of concern to indigenous peoples, with the direct participation of representatives of their organizations. The representatives of the Governments of Australia and Mexico called for the establishment of national commissions for the Decade.

128. The representative of the Government of Norway reported that a working group comprising officials from various ministries and members of the Sami Parliament had already been set up in his country to plan and coordinate the Decade at the national level. Only the formulation and implementation of national action programmes based on the realities and circumstances of each country could guarantee the success of the Decade. The Government of Finland pointed out, in that connection, that effective cooperation between Governments and indigenous organizations was necessary in order to secure resources and carry out the planned activities.

129. The representative of the autonomous Government of Greenland said that, if the Decade was to achieve the objective of putting an end to discriminatory practices and changing the socio-economic situation of indigenous peoples, it would be necessary for the United Nations and Governments to lend their moral and financial support. In that regard, national development agencies and non-governmental organizations would have to include explicit support in their strategies for projects to promote the rights and enhance the status of indigenous peoples and their organizations.

130. Several speakers said that support should be given to national programmes in the areas of educational, economic and socio-cultural development and in the area of health, while respecting the values, knowledge and traditions of indigenous peoples and making use of organizations and resources that already existed, both governmental and non-governmental or indigenous.

131. It was proposed that measures should be adopted to preserve and promote traditional medicine and give priority to the health of indigenous peoples.

132. Governments were requested to take steps to prevent scientific experimentation on indigenous peoples without their consent. The implications for indigenous peoples of the human genome project were expressly condemned.

133. An indigenous representative suggested that Governments should prepare and make available to the United Nations national guides on the policies and projects proposed in each country for the Decade, including the systems and procedures enabling indigenous people to participate in decision-making on those activities and the dates proposed for each event.

134. Some indigenous organizations suggested that radio and television programmes on the culture and rights of indigenous peoples should be broadcast during the Decade and that extensive information campaigns on the objectives and activities of the Decade should be conducted for the benefit of both indigenous and non-indigenous peoples.

135. The representative of the Government of Mexico said that national policies regarding indigenous peoples should include the creation of broad opportunities in the main State structures and institutions for genuine representation and participation of indigenous peoples in national life.

136. Some indigenous organizations urged Governments, in consultation with the indigenous peoples of their countries, to revise their policies on indigenous issues and establish effective mechanisms to promote and protect their rights, especially in respect of land, for example through constitutional reforms. In that context, it was also proposed that the traditional economic activities of pastoral peoples and nomadic hunter-gatherers should be recognized and protected by law as socio-economic activities specific to national economies.

137. Proposals were made with a view to restoring the indigenous names of places and geographical features as a way of acknowledging the pre-existence of indigenous peoples and their languages and cultures.

138. A number of indigenous organizations from the Russian Federation and Latin America, as well as the representative of the ILO, said that efforts should be made during the Decade to promote the ratification of ILO Convention No. 169.

139. Some indigenous organizations urged that, during and after the Decade, Governments should establish scholarship programmes to give indigenous students access to educational institutions at all levels.

140. The representative of the Government of the Philippines announced that indigenous cultural Olympic games for peace and development would be held in his country from 27 November to 10 December 1995. That initiative had the support of various United Nations agencies.

5. Indigenous activities

141. The Goodwill Ambassador for the International Year, Mrs. Rigoberta Menchú Tum, said that an international action programme and national action programmes had, of course, to be defined in close consultation with the indigenous organizations of each country, and it was equally necessary for indigenous peoples to prepare their own programmes to reaffirm and disseminate their cultures, with adequate economic assistance from their Governments.

142. An indigenous speaker announced, on behalf of a number of Central and South American indigenous organizations, that a Continental Meeting on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People would be held in Colombia in November 1994. A preparatory meeting would take place at Temuco, Chile, in September of the same year. The purpose of the Continental Meeting was to draw up an indigenous programme for the Decade.

143. Several indigenous organizations referred to the need to strengthen and preserve their institutions of self-government and self-management within national societies.

144. An indigenous speaker from the Pacific region suggested the establishment of a permanent peoples' court to which indigenous peoples could submit their claims.

145. The representative of the autonomous Government of Greenland stressed the need to create an international network between indigenous peoples to facilitate communications.

146. Some indigenous speakers pointed to the difficulties encountered by indigenous journalism (shortage of resources, discrimination, lack of recognition, difficulties in training new journalists, etc.) and emphasized the need for an international communications project to be set up by and for indigenous peoples. It was important for indigenous journalists to be present in the Centre for Human Rights and for an international indigenous journalists' workshop to be established. They also proposed the creation of an international indigenous magazine and indigenous means of communication at the local, national and regional levels, as well as a research and documentation centre to gather information on subjects of relevance to indigenous peoples.

147. One indigenous speaker suggested that resources should be allocated from the Voluntary Fund for the Decade to support educational programmes encouraging the transmission of knowledge about indigenous peoples' history, traditions and culture from older to younger generations.

148. Importance was attached to the implementation of programmes intended for indigenous women to emphasize their role as transmitters of life and culture. It was pointed out that attention should be paid, as a matter of priority, to mother and child health in indigenous communities.

149. The representative of a South American indigenous organization reported on the Third World Indigenous Youth Conference to be held at Sucúa, Ecuador, from 11 to 17 December 1994. He requested that the meeting should be formally recognized as an activity of the Decade and invited all indigenous youth present to participate in the event.

6. Non-governmental activities

150. The Goodwill Ambassador for the International Year, Mrs. Rigoberta Menchú Tum, said that non-governmental organizations should work in close cooperation with indigenous peoples during the Decade in a spirit of mutual trust.

151. Tribal Act, a French non-governmental organization, announced that it was organizing a conference, in the context of the International Decade, on the question of indigenous peoples in France's overseas territories and departments. That conference, to be prepared in close consultation with the indigenous organizations concerned, would take place in 1996.

IV. FINANCIAL PLAN

152. Many indigenous representatives and the representative of the Government of Norway stated that the resources necessary to put the activities of the Decade into practice should be derived from the regular budget of the United Nations. In particular, the human resources needed to coordinate the activities of the Decade from the Centre for Human Rights would have to be financed through the Centre's budget.

153. Reference was also made to the need to establish a Voluntary Fund for the International Decade. The Governments of Norway, Sweden and Denmark, together with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Commission of Australia, undertook to make contributions to the Fund when it had been set up. A large number of participants requested Governments to make generous contributions to the Fund in order to ensure the success of the Decade.

154. Several indigenous representatives recommended that a board of governors, composed of an equal number of indigenous and non-indigenous experts, should be appointed to administer the Fund.

155. Many speakers stressed the need for the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, together with national and regional development funds and agencies, to devote some of their regular resources during the Decade to meeting the needs and plans of indigenous peoples.

156. The representative of the World Bank stated that the Small Grants Programme set up by his organization was a possible source of financing for the activities of the Decade and encouraged institutions active in the area of development to submit requests to that Programme.

157. The representative of the Government of Brazil said that the globally unfavourable situation of the indigenous communities could not be changed merely through small-scale projects financed by the Voluntary Fund. In the developing countries, substantial national programmes were needed for that purpose. He requested that the Fund's resources should be made available not only for indigenous initiatives, but also for national agencies which submitted projects formulated with the participation of interested indigenous groups, and that the allocation of Fund resources should be decided by the Coordinator in consultation with national Governments and the senior representatives of the United Nations agencies in each country. The bulk of the financial resources for the Decade would have to be derived from bilateral cooperation.

158. A number of indigenous representatives from South America requested that the Governments of the developed countries should grant to the Voluntary Fund for the Decade 2 per cent of the interest on the external debt of the poor countries.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

159. On 27 July 1994, Mr. Jorge Rhenán Segura, Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Technical Meeting, and Mrs. Ingrid Washinawatok and Mr. Mikhail Todyshev, the two Vice-Chairpersons, drafted the following proposals and recommendations (E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/TM.4/CRP.4), which were submitted to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations.

A. Programme of activities for the Decade

160. Taking as a frame of reference General Assembly resolution 48/163, the fundamental objective of the Decade is the strengthening of international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education and health.

161. The theme of the Decade is "Indigenous people - a new partnership". 1/ The principles imbuing the activities of the Decade are cooperation, consultation and participation of indigenous peoples.

162. The specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other international and national agencies, together with the communities and private enterprises, must devote special attention to development activities in favour of indigenous communities.

1/ The indigenous representatives present suggested that the theme of the Decade should be "United Nations Decade for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples".

163. Another important objective of the Decade is the education of indigenous and non-indigenous societies concerning the situation, cultures, rights and expectations of indigenous peoples. In particular, support must be given to efforts to cooperate with the Decade for human rights education when the Decade is declared by the General Assembly.

164. Another objective of the Decade is the establishment of institutions and mechanisms for the full and active participation of indigenous peoples at the international, regional and national levels in matters of concern to them.

165. A further objective is to pursue the implementation of the recommendations of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action on indigenous peoples, in particular the recommendation that consideration should be given to the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system (Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/28).

166. Another objective is the adoption of the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and the further development of international provisions for the promotion and protection of the human rights of those peoples, including effective means of supervising and guaranteeing those rights.

167. The formulation of the objectives of the Decade must provide for practical and quantifiable results which improve the lives of the indigenous peoples and may be evaluated at the middle and end of the Decade.

B. Activities of the main actors

168. The Coordinator and the Centre for Human Rights should:

(a) Establish an Indigenous Peoples Unit, provided with appropriate personnel and resources;

(b) Request Governments, after consultation with interested national indigenous organizations, to provide qualified indigenous personnel to assist in the administration of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People;

(c) Establish a fellowships programme, in collaboration with the Advisory Services Branch of the Centre for Human Rights, to assist indigenous persons wishing to gain experiences in the various branches of the Centre for Human Rights and in other parts of the United Nations system. These fellowships could also be used for indigenous research and similar activities;

(d) Establish a communication programme linking the Coordinator, the national committees for the Decade, the indigenous affairs coordinators in each agency within the United Nations system and a network of indigenous communities and organizations. The Coordinator will also develop a data bank on indigenous organizations and other relevant information, in collaboration with the indigenous peoples, Governments, academic institutions and other relevant bodies;

(e) Compile a list of indigenous organizations and experts in several areas who would be available to advise United Nations agencies as associates or consultants;

(f) Establish an advisory group of persons with relevant knowledge of indigenous affairs who would, in their personal capacity, advise the Coordinator for the Decade on subjects such as the granting of subsidies from the Voluntary Fund for the Decade and on the management of the fellowships programme. The members of this advisory group could be outstanding indigenous personalities, such as the Goodwill Ambassador for the International Year, Government representatives, such as the Chairman of the Technical Meeting, and officials of the specialized agencies.

169. The United Nations system should:

(a) Appoint coordinators for indigenous affairs in all appropriate organizations in the system;

(b) Consider the adoption, by the administrative organs of its specialized agencies, of programmes of action for the Decade in their particular spheres of competence;

(c) Prepare, publish and distribute a manual containing practical information on how indigenous peoples can gain access to United Nations agencies;

(d) Develop training materials for indigenous peoples on human rights, including the translation of the principal international instruments into various indigenous languages, and distribute them widely; consider the possibility of reaching indigenous communities that do not possess written languages by means of radio programmes;

(e) Prepare, publish and distribute a compilation of national legislation on various forms of self-government or other matters of particular importance for indigenous peoples;

(f) Participate in research activities on the socio-economic conditions of indigenous peoples, in cooperation with indigenous organizations and other appropriate collaborators, with the aim of publishing regular reports;

(g) Establish mechanisms and suitable practices to ensure the participation of indigenous organizations and experts in the design and implementation of national and regional programmes that concern them;

(h) Hold regular inter-agency consultations with indigenous peoples in order to exchange views and develop strategies on the programme of action for the Decade;

(i) Hold consultations with national committees and interested development agencies in order to consider possibilities of cooperation in activities of the Decade.

170. The regional organizations should:

(a) Consider regional programmes of action to promote and support the objectives of the Decade;

(b) Hold regional meetings on indigenous affairs with the existing regional organizations, with the aim of strengthening coordination, benefiting from the United Nations institutional system and promoting the direct and active participation of indigenous peoples from the various regions; the Working Group on Indigenous Populations might consider the possibility of holding its session in conjunction with the above-mentioned meetings;

(c) Develop training courses and technical assistance programmes for indigenous peoples in such areas as project design and management;

(d) Devote funds at the regional level to activities benefiting indigenous peoples;

(e) Formulate regional instruments for the promotion and protection of indigenous peoples.

171. Governments should:

(a) Establish national committees for the Decade or similar bodies which include indigenous representatives, all relevant departments and other interested actors, thus mobilizing public support for the various activities relating to the Decade;

(b) Use part of already existing programme resources for activities which directly benefit indigenous peoples;

(c) Develop, in collaboration with indigenous communities, national plans for the Decade which include the main objectives and goals, make provision for quantitative results and take into consideration needs for resources and possible sources of financing;

(d) Adopt measures to broaden the non-indigenous population's knowledge of the history, traditions, culture and rights of indigenous peoples from primary school onwards, with particular emphasis on the training of teachers at all levels;

(e) Consider the possibility of ratifying ILO Convention No. 169, in close consultation with indigenous organizations in each country;

(f) Give legal recognition to the existence, rights and languages of indigenous peoples, preferably through constitutional reforms and the adoption of new laws to improve the legal status of indigenous peoples and ensure their territorial and economic rights;

(g) Implement chapter 26 of the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the most relevant provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

172. Indigenous peoples should:

(a) Establish an information network to provide links with the Coordinator and facilitate communications between the United Nations system and indigenous communities;

(b) Encourage international indigenous organizations to develop information on the goals of the Decade and United Nations activities for local communities;

(c) Establish and support indigenous schools and university institutions and collaborate with the relevant United Nations agencies; participate in the revision of school textbooks and the contents of study programmes in order to eliminate discriminatory references and promote appreciation of indigenous cultures; develop indigenous curricula for schools and research institutions;

(d) Establish local documentation centres, archives and museums on indigenous peoples and their cultures, laws, beliefs and values with materials which will serve to inform and educate non-indigenous societies on these questions; priority should be given to the participation of indigenous personnel in the administration of these centres;

(e) Establish networks of indigenous journalists and found indigenous periodicals at the regional and international levels;

(f) Publicize widely their views on the principal matters of interest to them: the financing of their activities and projects, territorial rights, respect for indigenous culture and rights, education, communications, environmental questions, health, recognition of their status as "peoples" and not "populations", the improvement of their living conditions, cultural and intellectual property, the processes of consultation with indigenous peoples and support for their traditional political systems.

173. Non-governmental organizations should cooperate with indigenous organizations, communities and peoples in the planning of the activities of the Decade. Other actors, including the press and the private sector, can contribute to the activities of the Decade by:

(a) Cooperating with indigenous organizations in the planning of those activities;

(b) Establishing radio and television centres in indigenous areas to broadcast information on indigenous peoples' problems and proposals and to serve as a means of improving communication between these communities;

(c) Promoting indigenous cultures through the publication of books, the production of compact discs with indigenous music and the organization of various artistic and cultural events to promote knowledge and appreciation of indigenous cultures;

(d) Securing the involvement of various social and cultural groups in the activities planned for the Decade.

174. The Bureau approved thematic projects in the following areas:

(a) Human rights;

(b) Self-government and self-determination;

(c) Territorial rights;

(d) Education and culture;

(e) Economic development, environment and natural resources;

(f) Health;

(g) Work;

(h) Press and communications.

175. It was considered that the following proposals should be included in a fund-raising plan:

(a) Biennial conferences should be held to raise funds, contributions being requested from Governments and from non-governmental organizations, outstanding artists, firms and interested private individuals;

(b) A Voluntary Fund for the Decade should be opened in early 1995;

(c) The advisory group mentioned in paragraph 168 should be requested to develop a fund-raising strategy and to advise the Coordinator for the Decade on the use of those resources.

176. The Bureau identified a number of activities for the short-term programme (10 December 1994-December 1996). For the inauguration of the Decade, provision was made for a symbolic opening by leading indigenous persons at United Nations Headquarters on Friday, 9 December 1994. It was also agreed to place prime emphasis on inaugurations at the national and community levels. It was proposed that a United Nations system workshop should be held with indigenous peoples on 9 December 1994 at United Nations Headquarters. For 1995, it was agreed to hold a seminar of experts on territorial rights and claims in order to inaugurate the programme of activities for the Decade at the beginning of 1995 and to celebrate the First International Day of Indigenous People.